

OPINION 2061 (Case 2900)***Porites* Link, 1807, *Galaxea* Oken, 1815, *Mussa* Oken, 1815 and *Dendrophyllia* Blainville, 1830 (Anthozoa, Scleractinia): generic names conserved**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the names of four genera of scleractinian corals: *Porites* Link, 1807, *Galaxea* Oken, 1815, *Mussa* Oken, 1815 and *Dendrophyllia* Blainville, 1830 are conserved. The names *Galaxea* and *Mussa*, in current use for Indo-Pacific and Caribbean genera respectively, were formally unavailable because the work in which the names were published had been rejected for nomenclatural purposes (Opinion 417, September 1956). The name *Porites* Link is in universal use for a widely distributed reef-building coral but was threatened by the senior homonym *Porites* Cuvier, 1798. The names *Galaxea*, *Mussa* and *Dendrophyllia* (a predominantly deep-water non-reef-building genus) were also threatened by the name *Porites* Cuvier, 1798 as a senior subjective synonym.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Anthozoa; Scleractinia; corals; reefs; *Dendrophyllia*; *Galaxea* (Indo-Pacific); *Mussa* (Caribbean); *Porites*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that:
 - (a) the following names are available despite having been published in a rejected work:
 - (i) *Galaxea* Oken, 1815;
 - (ii) *Mussa* Oken, 1815;
 - (b) the name *Porites* Cuvier, 1798, and all uses of the name *Porites* prior to the publication of *Porites* Link, 1807, are hereby suppressed for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Galaxea* Oken, 1815 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Vaughan (1918) *Madrepora fascicularis* Linnaeus, 1758;
 - (b) *Mussa* Oken, 1815 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Vaughan (1918) *Madrepora angulosa* Pallas, 1766;
 - (c) *Porites* Link, 1807 (gender: masculine), type species by absolute tautonymy *Madrepora porites* Pallas, 1766;
 - (d) *Dendrophyllia* Blainville, 1830 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Milne Edwards & Haime (1850) *Madrepora ramea* Linnaeus, 1758.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *fascicularis* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Madrepora fascicularis* (specific name of the type species of *Galaxea* Oken, 1815);

- (b) *angulosa* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Madrepora angulosa* (specific name of the type species of *Mussa* Oken, 1815);
 - (c) *porites* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Madrepora porites* (specific name of the type species of *Porites* Link, 1807) and as defined by the lectotype designated by Vaughan (1901);
 - (d) *ramea* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Madrepora ramea* (specific name of the type species of *Dendrophyllia* Blainville, 1830) and as defined by the lectotype designated by Zibrowius (1980).
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
- (a) GALAXEINAE Vaughan & Wells, 1943 (type genus *Galaxea* Oken, 1815);
 - (b) MUSSIDAE Ortmann, 1890 (type genus *Mussa* Oken, 1815);
 - (c) PORITIDAE Gray, 1842 (type genus *Porites* Link, 1807);
 - (d) DENDROPHYLLIIDAE Gray, 1847 (type genus *Dendrophyllia* Blainville, 1830).
- (5) The name *Porites* Cuvier, 1798, as suppressed in (1)(b) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2900

An application to conserve the names of four genera of scleractinian corals: *Porites* Link, 1807, *Galaxea* Oken, 1815, *Mussa* Oken, 1815 and *Dendrophyllia* Blainville, 1830 was received from Donald C. Potts (*Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz, California, U.S.A.*) on 23 June 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 52: 142–147 (June 1995). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. A comment in support of the application was published in BZN 52: 328–329. A comment opposing the application was published in BZN 60: 49–51.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2003 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 52: 145–146. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2003 the votes were as follows: 19 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 2 Commissioners (Lamas and Song) voted AGAINST, Bouchet voted FOR proposals (1), (2), (3) and (5) and abstained on proposal (4), no vote was received from Eschmeyer. Böhme and Patterson were on leave of absence.

Bouchet commented that there was no need to place the family-group names on the Official List. His experience with molluscs was that the Official List is already full of family-groups names that have been listed, without purpose, with the wrong author and/or date. The application presents no evidence that the nomenclature of the four coral family-groups has been thoroughly researched, and it might do more harm than good to list them in the course of routine book keeping. He disagreed with Mark Grygier's attempt to attribute the names *Mussa* and *Galaxea* to authors later than Oken. Rejection of Oken's *Lehrbuch* was a rather short-sighted decision (but one the zoological community now has to live with). Under Opinion 417, the letter and spirit of the Code was employed when conserving some of Oken's names. This was done for certain mollusc genera (e.g. *Doto*) and has not been a cause of inconsistency.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- angulosa*, *Madrepora*, Pallas, 1766, *Elenchus zoophytorum sistens generum* . . . 28, p. 299.
Dendrophyllia Blainville, 1830, *Dictionnaire des sciences naturelles*, vol. 60, p. 319.
 DENDROPHYLLIIDAE Gray, 1847, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 19: 128.
fascicularis, *Madrepora*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 796.
Galaxea Oken, 1815, *Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte*, vol. 3 (Zoologie), part 1 (Fleischlose Thiere), p. 71.
 GALAXEINAE Vaughan & Wells, 1943, *Geological Society of America, Special Papers*, 44: 184.
Mussa Oken, 1815, *Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte*, vol. 3 (Zoologie), part 1 (Fleischlose Thiere), p. 71.
 MUSSIDAE Ortmann, 1890, *Zeitschrift für Wissenschaftliche Zoologie*, 50: 315.
Porites Cuvier, 1798, *Tableau élémentaire de l'histoire naturelle des animaux*, p. 678.
Porites Link, 1807, *Beschreibung der Naturalien-Sammlung der Universität zu Rostock*, part 3, p. 163.
porites, *Madrepora*, Pallas, 1766, *Elenchus zoophytorum sistens generum* . . . 28, p. 324.
 PORITIDAE Gray, 1842, *Synopsis of the contents of the British Museum*, Ed. 44, p. 135.
ramea, *Madrepora*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 797.

The following are the references for the designation of the type species of the genera listed:

- Dendrophyllia* Blainville, 1830 (*Madrepora ramea* Linnaeus, 1758):
 Milne Edwards, H. & Haime, J. 1850. *A monograph of the British fossil corals. First part. Introduction; corals from the Tertiary and Cretaceous Formations*, p. liii.
Galaxea Oken, 1815 (*Madrepora fascicularis* Linnaeus, 1758):
 Vaughan, T.W. 1918. Publications of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, No. 213. *Papers of the Department of Marine Biology*, 9: 98.
Mussa Oken, 1815 (*Madrepora angulosa* Pallas, 1766):
 Vaughan, T.W. 1918. Publications of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, No. 213. *Papers of the Department of Marine Biology*, 9: 122.

The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotypes of the following type species:

- porites*, *Madrepora*, Pallas, 1766:
 Vaughan, T.W. 1901. *Bulletin of the United States Fish Commission*, 20(2) (for 1900): 315.
ramea, *Madrepora*, Linnaeus, 1758:
 Zibrowius, H. 1980. *Mémoires de l'Institut Océanographique* (Monaco), 11: 169.